



Department of Highways
District 8

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Agriculture

- ✍ Kenny Beshears
- ✍ Allen Crawford
- ✍ Keenan Turner

Business

- ✍ Ken Bean
- ✍ Jim Bentley
- ✍ John Tuttle

Economic Development/Tourism

- ✍ Carrol Estes
- ✍ Diane Holman
- ✍ Vacancy

Environment

- ✍ Dan Crockett
- ✍ Lee Florea
- ✍ Father Jack Kieffer
- ✍ Ben Mattingly

Government

- ✍ Wayne Bennett
- ✍ Darrell Beshears
- ✍ J.P. Wiles

Neighborhoods

- ✍ Carrie Altmaier
- ✍ Steve Dunn
- ✍ Reverend Mark Harrell

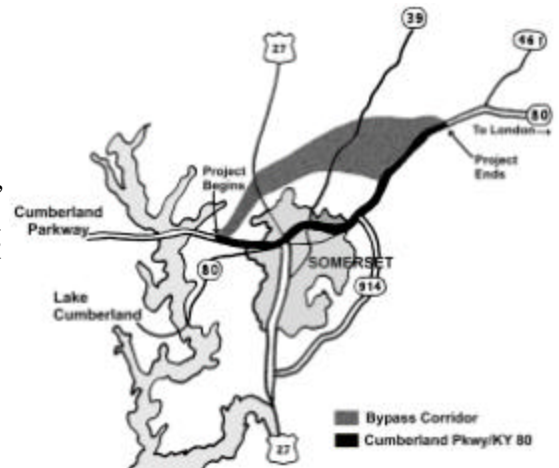
NEWSLETTER

Somerset Northern Bypass

No. 1, April 2002

Citizen's Advisory Council Formed

The Somerset Northern Bypass Citizen Advisory Council is a group of community residents who have volunteered to assist the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) in a study of a proposed highway bypass north of Somerset. Alternatives to the bypass, including the "No-Build" alternative and upgrading Cumberland Parkway/KY 80 through Somerset to an interstate-type facility, also will be considered.



Throughout the project study, one of the primary roles of Council members is to foster communication between the public and the KYTC on the purpose of and need for the project and on the alternate alignments being studied and their impacts.

"The KYTC is committed to hearing from the public about this project," said David Beattie, project manager. "We want to establish a two-way flow of dialogue between the public and our agency. The Advisory Council can make that happen."

Each Advisory Council member represents an interest area in the community, including agriculture, business, economic development/tourism, environment, government and neighborhoods. Each member is a focal point for the community to obtain information about the study and to provide input on their concerns about highway alternatives.

"However, the public needs to remember that Council members are not responsible for developing or promoting any of the alternates," Beattie said. "Their roles are as objective facilitators to foster public involvement around gauging the impacts of each alternative and determining which might best serve the community as a whole."

One of the first tasks of the Council is to help the public set criteria for determining impacts. "This is being done now," Beattie said, "by having Council members in each interest area conduct a mail survey of their constituents."

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After their final criteria are developed, the Council will use the criteria and the results of the KYTC's engineering design and environmental studies to determine which alternates might have the most impact on farming operations or be most disruptive to neighborhoods, for example. "We will then ask the Council for guidance on how to minimize those impacts," Beattie said.

Ultimately, the Council will make recommendations to the KYTC, based on their dialogue with the public and their own analysis and discussions, about how each alternative would impact the community.

"It is important for the public to remember that while each Council member represents a particular interest area, the Council as a whole may need to make trade-offs in attempting to build a consensus for the community about if and where a new highway should be constructed. All interest areas are important in forming a well-considered recommendation," Beattie said.

"The Advisory Council's recommendation may take several forms, depending on what members feel most comfortable with and what best represents public opinion," Beattie said. "They may or may not agree on a single best alternative." There may be majority and minority opinions expressed on alternate locations. Or, Council members may decide to simply compile a list of impacts for each alternate. "Whatever form their recommendations take, we will integrate into our decision-making process. We very much appreciate the participation of these dedicated and generous volunteers," Beattie said.

The KYTC will make the final choice of which alternative to recommend to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). If the KYTC recommends one of the build alternates, and if the FHWA agrees with the KYTC's recommendation, design and land acquisition activities would begin, once funding is secured.

Get to Know the Advisory Council

Provided below are short biographies of the Advisory Council members, listed within the group they represent.

Agriculture Work Group

Ken Beshears

Occupation: Farmer

Ken has been active as a farmer for 28 years. He lives within and leases land along the proposed bypass corridor.

Allen J. Crawford

Occupation: Farmer/Insurance Agent

Allen was born and raised in Pulaski County and has been involved in farming for as long as he can remember. He and his family own four farms where they have raised beef cattle and tobacco for over 40 years.

Keenan Turner

Occupation: Agricultural Extension Agent

Keenan has served as an agricultural extension agent for Pulaski County for 24 years. His intent is to make sure that the producers in the project corridor have a voice in this project.

Business Work Group

Ken Bean

Occupation: Vice-President, Cumberland Division of Goodwill Industries of Kentucky, former Executive Director, Somerset/Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce

Ken has lived and worked in Somerset for 37 years. He has worked in the business community for the last 17 years.

Jim Bentley

Occupation: Certified Public Accountant

Jim has lived and worked as a CPA in Pulaski County for 19 years. He has been associated with various local businesses both as an advisor and as an owner. The future growth of the county is very important to him.

John Tuttle

Occupation: Owner of Several Small Businesses

John's 24 years in the Pulaski County business community includes industrial and service sector experience. He is a former board member of the

Somerset Chamber of Commerce and currently serves as a board member of the First Southern National Bank and the Industrial Foundation Board.

Economic Development/Tourism Work Group

Carrol Estes

Occupation: Executive Director, Industrial Foundation Board

Carrol has worked in community and industrial development for 18 years and also has been involved in planning efforts for the City of Somerset for 18 years.

Diane Smith Holman

Occupation: Executive Director, Somerset-Pulaski Convention & Visitors Bureau

Diane has worked nearly 15 years in travel and tourism at the state and county levels. She feels that having a good highway system is important to the area since the Lake Cumberland area is one of the largest tourism attractions in the eastern U.S.

Environment Work Group

Dan Crockett

Occupation: Forester

Dan has worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 24 years. He has experience in resource management, including timber and wildlife management and environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Lee Florea

Occupation: Karst Hydrogeologist

Lee, originally from Somerset, has 11 years experience in karst hydrogeology. He currently is the president of the Kentucky Speleological Survey and the principle investigator for the I-66 special project of the National Speleological Society. He has been able to provide useful information about caves and hydrogeology in the project corridor.

Father Jack Kieffer

Occupation: Pastor & Technical Consultant

In his work for the group Appalachia-Science in the Public Interest (ASPI), Father Kieffer tries to help people learn to live in harmony with the environment in a sustainable way by providing technical and

scientific information on how to live simply and through their own efforts.

Ben Mattingly

Occupation: Retired Fishing Guide

Ben has lived in Somerset for 63 years. He has been an outdoorsman all his life and has spent the last 22 years making a living as a guide. He feels it is his duty to represent the vital environmental issues that are involved in road-building and the resulting population gains.

Government Work Group

Wayne Bennett

Occupation: Transportation Director, Pulaski County Schools

Wayne grew up in London. He served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force as a navigator before retiring. Since retiring from the Air Force, he has spent 10 years as a bus driver and driver trainer for Pulaski County Schools. He is very familiar with the roads and traffic in the county and the effects that has on school buses and travel times as well as accessibility.

Darrell Beshears

Occupation: Pulaski County Judge Executive

Judge Beshears has served as County Judge for 12 years. During that time he has seen the county experience extreme growth, increased tourism and industrial development as well as an increase in the number of people retiring to the area. The Judge sees transportation as the number one problem for the area.

J.P. Wiles

Occupation: Mayor, City of Somerset

J.P. has served as the Mayor of Somerset since 1999. Before becoming Mayor, he was a representative of Commonwealth Insurance.

Neighborhoods Work Group

Carrie Altmaier

Occupation: Preschool Teacher/Parent Educator

Carrie has lived in her home, located in the middle of the proposed bypass corridor, for 18 years. She knows the people living in her area and feels that it is helpful that they know they have a voice in the development of this project.

Steve Dunn

Occupation: Director of Pupil Personnel, McCreary County Board of Education

Steve has lived in the Pleasant Hill Community for the past 14 years. His wife's family has lived there for several generations. He hopes to help identify the best route possible for the people living in the area.

Reverend Mark Harrell

Occupation: Pastor

As a pastor, Reverend Harrell feels he is aware of the importance of people's homes, environment and lifestyles, while at the same time recognizing the need for advancing development. He thinks the Somerset community is wonderful area in which to live and wishes to see it grow and develop, while protecting existing features.

KYTC to hold Public Information Meeting on May 14th

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) will hold an open-house public information meeting on the proposed northern bypass of Somerset on May 14, 2002 at the Center for Rural Development, 2292 South Highway 27, in Somerset. Citizens can come at any time between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and view handout materials, an audio-visual presentation and

maps of the project area. Staff from the KYTC and its consultants will be on hand to answer questions.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide information on the purpose and need for this project, to present preliminary alignments currently under study and to present preliminary environmental study information about the project area.

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